

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02895 161044 Z

14

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SUBJ: YOUTH POLICY - CYO COMMENTS ON BERLIN YOUTH FESTIVAL

REF: A. MOSCOW 2486; B. STATE 16267; C. BERLIN 0212

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO) FILIPPOV AND KAVTARADZE (REF A), EMBOFFS RAISED BERLIN YOUTH FESTIVAL AND ASKED ABOUT SOVIET PLANNING.

2. FILIPPOV SAID SOME 800 SOVIET DELEGATES WOULD ATTEND FESTIVAL AND COUNTRY- WIDE COMPETITIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO DECIDE CHOICE OF SOVIET PARTICIPANTS. HE EXPECTS ABOUT 15,000 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS.

3. FILIPPOV WAS QUICK TO INDICATE THAT WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH (WFDY) AND OTHER STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING FESTIVAL. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT US LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS WERE ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN FESTIVAL'S PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, HE ASKED IF EMBOFFS KNEW OF INTEREST OF OTHER US GROUPS, SPECIFICALLY AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL) AND US YOUTH COUNCIL (USYC). EMBOFFS REPLIED THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF SPECIFIC INTEREST THOUGH

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02895 161044 Z

POSSIBILITY EXISTED. FILIPPOV STRESSED PARTICIPATION WAS OPEN TO THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO INVITATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT ACYPL AND USYC PARTICIPATION AT AUGUST 1972 HELSINKI EUROPEAN YOUTH SECURITY CONFERENCE HAD BEEN USEFUL.

4. FILIPPOV CONFIRMED THAT VIETNAM WOULD BE MAJOR THEME OF FESTIVAL AND THAT SLOGAN WOULD BE " FOR ANTI- IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP." WHEN EMBOFFS QUESTIONED APPROPRIATENESS OF THEMES IN LIGHT OF NEW, WARMER US- SOVIET RELATIONS, AND CHANGED INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FILIPPOV SEEMED SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED, REPLYING THAT PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS HAD DECIDED THEMES OF FESTIVAL. KAVTARADZE REMARKED THAT SOME DELEGATIONS, NOTABLY DANES, WOULD BE MORE MODERATE AND BROAD- BASED THAN AT PREVIOUS YOUTH FESTIVALS. EMBOFFS SUGGESTED THAT THEMES OF FUTURE COOPERATION WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR YOUTH DISCUSSIONS.

5. WHILE SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY BE PLEASED TO HAVE LARGER DELEGATION FROM US ATTEND THE FESTIVAL, WE DETECT NOTE OF EMBARRASSMENT IN THEIR DISCUSSION OF FESTIVAL AND DOUBT THAT THEY SERIOUSLY BELIEVE MANY RESPONSIBLE WESTERN YOUTH GROUPS WILL ATTEND. COMPOSITION AND FRAMEWORK OF THE FESTIVAL, AS DESCRIBED BY US MISSION BERLIN (REFTEL), MAKE IT SEEM DOUBTFUL THAT WESTERN DELEGATES COULD DO MUCH TO MODERATE ITS RESOLUTIONS. AT SAME TIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO STIMULATE SOVIETS TO MOVE IN DIRECTION OF DISCOURAGING SIMILAR PROPAGANDA CIRCUSES IN THE FUTURE. ONE USEFUL STEP MIGHT BE TO INFORM SOVIETS FORMALLY THAT US WOULD HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING ATTENDANCE OF AMERICAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AT RESPONSIBLE FESTIVAL BUT CAN SEE LITTLE RESULT OTHER THAN POLEMICAL CONFRONTATION EMERGING FROM FESTIVAL IN ITS PRESENT FORMAT. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO REITERATE SURPRISE THAT USSR AND GDR SHOULD FEEL THAT FESTIVAL ORGANIZED ALONG SUCH LINES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED EAST- WEST RELATIONS. WE COULD SUGGEST THAT ACYPL AND USYC MIGHT CHANGE THEIR MINDS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL, SHOULD IT BE REORIENTED ALONG MORE NEUTRAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE LINES.

6. IN UNLIKELY EVENT THAT SOVIETS PRESSURE BERLIN FESTIVAL SPONSORS AND CHANGE OCCURE IN FESTIVAL'S WHOLE APPROACH, WE WOULD, IN FACT, FAVOR PARTICIPATION BY ARTICULATE, RESPONSIBLE US YOUTH DELEGATES. OBVIOUSLY, WE CAN ONLY PASS ON VIEWS OF ACYPL AND THE USYC AND NOT SPEAK FOR THEM, BUT WE WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02895 161044 Z

PLEASED TO DISCUSS FESTIVAL WITH CYO ALONG THE ABOVE, OR OTHER

LINES, SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SUCH AN APPROACH
USEFUL.
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